

WHAT IS PROVISIONAL VOTING?

Provisional voting was created to allow a voter, whose eligibility has been questioned, to vote on Election Day. "Provisional Ballots" must be kept in a separate, securable container until voter eligibility to vote is determined, by the election authority, AFTER Election Day.

WHEN DOES PROVISIONAL VOTING APPLY?

Provisional voting applies in four different circumstances:

- Election judges have NO record of the individual.
- A voter's voting status has been successfully challenged.
- A voter did not provide identification when registering by mail.
- A court order extends the time for closing the polls.

WHY DO WE HAVE PROVISIONAL VOTING?

- To ensure that all qualified voters are allowed to vote.
- To get a complete review of the voter's information.
- To correct any error made during the registration process.
- To update voter records.
- To register voters for future elections.

PROVISIONAL VOTING PROCEDURES:

- Voter fills out "Application to Vote."
- Voter fills out and signs the "Provisional Voter Affidavit."
- Election Judge signs the "Provisional Voter Affidavit" and marks the reason the voter is issued a provisional ballot. The original affidavit stays with the "Provisional Ballot Envelope," and the copy goes to the voter.
- The voter may present information that supports his/her claim to be a qualified voter. This information stays with the affidavit.
- The voter is issued a correct ballot and a "Provisional Ballot Envelope."
- If the ballot is spoiled, it must be surrendered to the judge, who will issue a new ballot.
- The voted ballot is sealed in the "Provisional Ballot Envelope".
- The "Provisional Ballot Envelope" is then returned to the election judges.
- The election judges will deposit it in a SEPARATE SECURABLE CONTAINER (other than the ballot box containing the regular ballots).
- After voting provisionally, the voter is told how to submit additional proof of registration to the election authority, and how, after the election, to determine if their ballot is counted.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE "PROVISIONAL BALLOTS?"

- The "Provisional Voter" may submit additional information to the election authority.
- The additional information must be received by the election authority no later than the close of business on the Thursday following the election.
- The election authority has 14 days (after the election) to determine voter eligibility, and thus if the ballot should be counted.
- The "Provisional Ballots" will then be counted, or left sealed in the "Provisional Ballot Envelopes."
- The election authority will add the number of approved "Provisional Ballots" to the Election Day results.
- The "Provisional Voter" may find out if his/her ballot was counted, or if it was NOT counted, the reason that it was not counted.
- If the ballot is not counted, the "Provisional Voter Affidavit" will be used as a registration application and the voter will be sent a voters registration ID card.

HOW DOES A PERSON KNOW OF HIS/HER RIGHT TO VOTE PROVISIONALLY?

Every challenged voter must be informed of his/her right to vote provisionally. This notification must be provided by the election judges or by posted signs.

VOTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Always contact the office of the election authority PRIOR to Election Day to verify your correct voting status. This will hopefully eliminate the need for a “Provisional Ballot” on Election Day.
- Each “Provisional Voter” will be given a copy of their “Provisional Voter Affidavit”.
- Each “Provisional Voter” will be given instructions on how and when to provide additional proof of registration to the election authority.
- Each “Provisional Voter” will be given instructions on how to determine (after the election) if their ballot was counted.
- If a “Provisional Ballot” is not counted, the envelope containing the ballot will NOT be opened.
- Each “Provisional Voter” will be able to find out WHY their rejected ballot was not counted.
- If a “Provisional Voter’s Ballot” is NOT counted, the “Provisional Voter Affidavit” will be used as a registration for future elections.

The State Board of Elections is to help bring about greater understanding and participation in the electoral process.

For more information on election laws and procedures, write or call the State Board of Elections



State Board of Elections
1020 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217/782-4141
TDD 217/782-1518

100 West Randolph, Suite 14-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312/814-6440
TDD 312/814-6431

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois

www.elections.state.il.us

PROVISIONAL VOTING IN ILLINOIS

Rights and Limitations



IN ORDER TO ENSURE VOTERS' RIGHTS, THE "HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT" AND THE ILLINOIS ELECTION CODE PROVIDE FOR PROVISIONAL VOTING.